Reform of the Juvenile Justice System in Afghanistan

AFG/R40
2004-2006
Juvenile Justice in Afghanistan

- 23 March 2005 publication of new Juvenile Code, Official Gazette, n. 846:
  - Age of criminal responsibility raised from 7 to 12 years
  - A child is anyone under the age of 18
  - Alternative measures to improve the protection of children in contact and in conflict with the law, children at risk and in need of care and protection
The Project
Donors: Italy, Canada, Austria
US$ 1,060,000

• Context: UNODC criminal justice reform programme in Afghanistan.

• Major aim: strengthening the legislative and institutional capacities for juvenile justice.

• Project goals:
  ➢ Setting up juvenile justice administration department at MoJ
  ➢ Setting-up new premises and reorganizing the juvenile court of Kabul
  ➢ Capacity building of personnel dealing with juveniles
  ➢ Reforming corrections’ administration for juvenile offenders and establishing a juvenile closed rehabilitation centre
Interagency Cooperation

- **Country justice team**: UNAMA (rule of law officer and corrections advisor), UNODC, UNICEF, UNDP and UNIFEM

- **18 June 2005**: UNODC and UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding:
  - To assist ministry of justice in establishing a working juvenile justice system.
  - To do joint programming for juvenile justice capacity building in Afghanistan.

- **Afghan independent human rights commission**, regular consultations, involvement in training activities

- Coordination with ISAF for humanitarian support to Afghan Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres

- Consultation with international and national NGOs
The Juvenile Justice Department

- 2004 - Support to establishment of Juvenile Justice Administration Department (JJAD) at MOJ (August 2004)

- June 2005 - Appointment of Senior Institutional Development Specialist to work with the staff of JJAD:
  - to develop the TORs and organizational chart prepared jointly by UNODC and UNICEF.
  - to help preparing application for stage 2 of the Priority Reform and Restructuring (PRR).

**Juvenile Justice Department’s functions’ (PRR):**
- Provide advise to MoJ and Afghan Government on programs and policies on children in contact and conflict with the law
- Coordination and consultation with all other entities related to Juvenile Justice
- Financial advise to MoJ
- Establishment and coordination of 34 provincial offices’ activities
- Support to 34 provincial offices to perform duties and implement activities
- Monitoring of provincial offices activities’ results
Support to Juvenile Justice Department

- Furniture, equipment, stationary and Internet connection.
- Training in English, Computer literacy and management
- Training on Juvenile Code and Juvenile Justice
- Study-tour to Lebanon, to learn from that country’s experience on JJ.
The Kabul Juvenile Court

- Needs’ assessment
- Refurbishment of existing premises and provision of furniture and equipment.
- Results:
  Premises in good conditions
  Judges and staff provided with necessary tools
- Constant contacts with the juvenile court on implementation of the code.
UNODC – UNICEF MOU:
Capacity Building for ensuring protection of children’s rights within the criminal justice system

- **Training for Trainers**
  22-25 August, Juvenile Justice Training - Making a difference for children

- **Cascade Training**
  August- December: Herat (western region), Jalalabad (eastern region), Mazar (northern region), Kabul (central region) and Kandahar (southern region).

- **Target:**
  250 professionals: staff of JJAD, judges, prosecutors, defence lawyers, police, forensic doctors, social workers.
Under Construction

- Juvenile Closed Rehabilitation Centre & Female Prison/Detention Centre

Total Cost – Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre: US$ 1,200,000

Funds Shortfall: US$ 900,000
Future activities

- To foster the implementation of the Afghan Juvenile Code and of the reform of the Juvenile Justice Department

  Training for professionals dealing with juveniles in contact and in conflict with on the Juvenile Code and on Juvenile Justice.

  Training for Directors of Juvenile Rehabilitation Centres and provincial Juvenile Justice Departments on management
Future activities

• To enhance the capacity of social workers to perform their task, in consistence with the Juvenile Code

Support the Ministry of Justice in reaching an agreement at inter-ministerial level for the elaboration of interdisciplinary curricula within Kabul University for a Social work specialization course.

Establishment of pilot on-the-job training program for social workers and educators at the new Kabul Juvenile Closed Rehabilitation Centre
Future activities

- Provision of educational and vocational trainings to Juveniles in Rehabilitation Centres
  
  Sub-contracted NGOs to conduct educational and vocational training for juveniles in Rehabilitation Centres
  
  Basic training on the Afghan Juvenile Code
Questions?